

REMARKS

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Species 1, illustrated in Figure 1; and

Species 2, illustrated in Figure 6.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Species 2, illustrated in Figure 6 with traverse.

Claims 1 and 3-17 are directed to the elected species. As acknowledged by the Examiner, at least claims 1 and 8-16 are generic.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement, Applicants have elected species 2, claims 1 and 3-17 for initial examination. It is respectfully submitted that a reasonable number of species are permitted in a single application. The present application contains only two species. It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement is improper in view of the fact that a reasonable number of species are set forth in the present application.

Because of the very close interrelationship between all the species of the present application and because of the potential expenses which might be required to file separate

applications to cover the related species, it is believed that all of the species are properly examinable in a single application. However, in order to be responsive to the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement, claims 1 and 3-17 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the Election of Species Requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. In addition, if a generic claim is found to be allowable, it is requested that the Examiner consider claim 2 along with the elected species. However, if the Examiner does persist in the Election of Species Requirement and no generic claims are found to be allowable, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to claim 2 at a later date if it is so desired.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Paul C. Lewis (Reg. No. 43,368) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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